

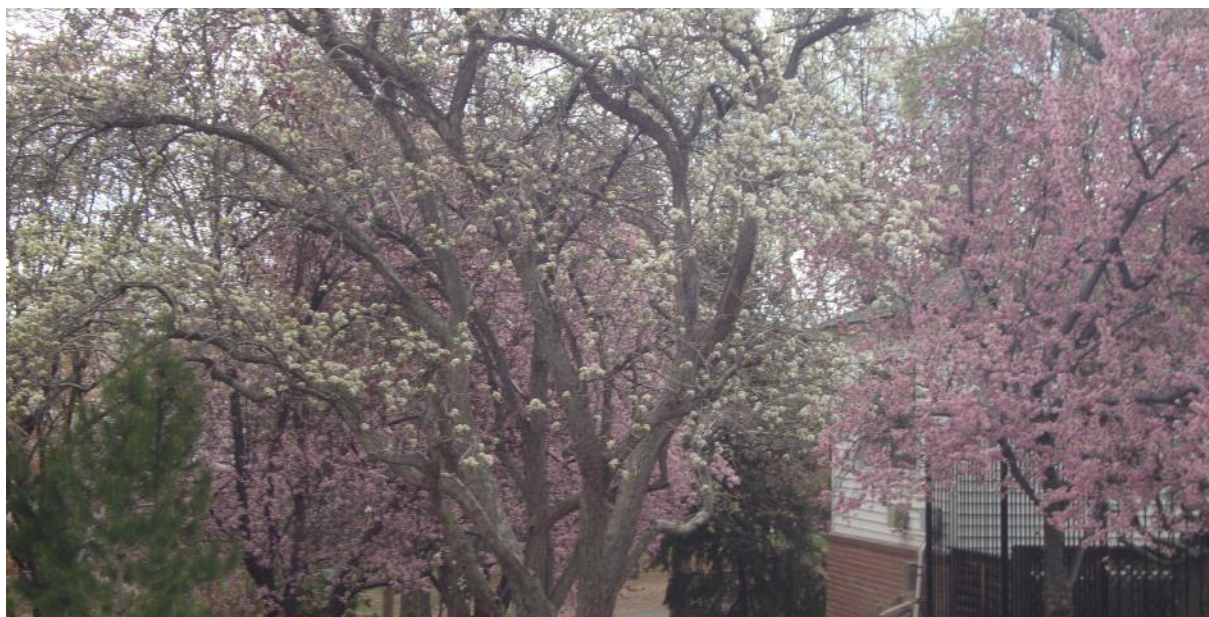


A Bi-Monthly Newsletter For Volunteers By Volunteers

CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

May-June 2021 1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503 (775)-785-4153 Volume 4 Issue 3



Let the Fun Begin!

Hi Everyone! The Arboretum is coming back to life, in more ways than one!

While we will still have the virtual programs that started during the past year, we are also now able to bring back a few outdoor activities and events to the Arboretum. In fact, we have so much to share that we are expanding this issue into 14 pages!

We start with county and volunteer updates from Denise Evans on pages 2 and 3, along with a special nod and thank you to a few volunteers who are always in the gardens, regardless of the weather. I share a visit to the greenhouse on page 4.

On page 5, is the list of virtual workshops and on page 6, Laura Fraser, our Arboretum Educator, is rolling out some fun new projects featuring gnomes and salsa. M.A.S. events are highlighted on pages 7-9.

There are lots of Arboretum Upgrades going on. Bill Carlos tells us about the two new water fountains on page 10 and Rod Dimmitt gives a new update on the Cactus / Succulent Garden in the offing on pages 11 and 12.

Join us!

Bev Treadway, Editor

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Volunteer's Corner

COVID-19 Impact Updates on Washoe County Parks

By Denise Evans

COVID-19 Impacts on Washoe County Parks

Washoe County is asking park visitors to continue to practice the following:

Continue to social distance when with non-household members.

A face covering must be worn when entering the restroom, or entering any indoor park facility.

When there are updates, they will be posted as soon as possible to the [Washoe County Parks COVID page](#) and often posted on the [Washoe County Parks Facebook](#) page.

Washoe County Parks works closely with the City of Reno and City of Sparks so that our park operations are consistent across the county. For additional COVID-19 information affecting our region, visit the City of Reno/City of Sparks/Washoe County Regional Information Center: <https://covid19washoe.com/>

Want to Volunteer?

There are so many different ways to participate and volunteer at the Arboretum.

- ◆ Do you like to garden? There is plenty to do! You can go solo, in a pair, or check out one of the group projects. Gardening is one of easiest ways to social distance volunteer.
- ◆ Do you like to go festivals? You can help out at Lavender Day or Plein Air and get the added perk of enjoying an event while volunteering.
- ◆ Do you like children? You can read a book to the kiddos for the Virtual Story Time.
- ◆ Not sure what you want to do, but just want to test the waters? Help out with the Gnome Scavenger Hunt!

(If you know of someone who is not an Arboretum volunteer, but would like to join in on the fun, have them contact Denise to learn how to get registered as a volunteer.)

To find out more:

Contact Laura Fraser at the Arboretum Office at (775) 785-4153 or you can email her lfraser@washoecounty.us

Or connect with Denise Evans at devans@washoecounty.us

To help with May Arboretum Society events, check their website for details. www.mayarboretumsociety.org/volunteer.html



Volunteer's Corner

Winter Warriors!

By Denise Evans

Last newsletter, we highlighted all of the extraordinary volunteers we were lucky enough to work with during 2020. This newsletter, we wanted to give one additional shout-out to our "Winter Warriors", those volunteers that continued to come to the Arboretum from November to April. It is thanks to their hard work and tenacity, along with our incredible seasonal winter employees Paula Starkey, Todd Kidder, and Rod Dimmitt (yes, he volunteers too!), that the Arboretum was able to begin the season of spring ahead of the game. Some projects that were completed over winter included: pruning trees and bushes in Xeriscape, cleaning out the water bed running through Burke to Honeys, refreshing the large daylily bed west of Rose Garden, cutting back red hot poker and grass east of Rose Garden, pruning and mulching Rose Garden, trimming bushes and pruning trees in Songbird, trimming and pruning in David's Grove, pruning and deadheading in Kristen's, Native, and Rock, general cleanup in Labyrinth, and even some major rehab in the Nevada Farms and Families Area (old GBA) of Rancho San Rafael.

A big thank you to Becky Conrad and Pat Leedy, a dynamic duo with a total of 250 hours between the two of them from November to April! You two are irreplaceable and we appreciate you so much! Many thanks also to our three macho, macho men - Rod Dimmitt (86 hours), Danny Carrasco (77 hours), and Jim Alsup (56 hours) for all of their hard work this winter. For those of you that have not yet met Jim, he has been busy identifying and helping to eradicate invasive tree species—primarily Elms. And finally, Susan Campau (50 hours), Susan Mullen (35 hours), and Chris Veach (30 hours), your hard work warmed our hearts this winter. Darla Lee, Tonia Meyers, and Victoria Nilson, don't worry, we saw you contributed as well and appreciate you!

Last but not least, I would be remiss if I did not mention Laura Robertson and all of the time she has spent putting together interesting and innovative programming for the May Arboretum Society, as well as Connection's very own Bev Treadway for her unwavering dedication to this newsletter. Putting together a publication that comes out every other month is no small commitment. We are so grateful to work with you both. Thank you!



Above, Becky Conrad and Pat Leedy hard at work in the Rose Garden.

On the upper right, one of the beds at the Rose Garden all newly mulched and pruned by our wonderful and talented gardening volunteers.

Lower right, one of the rose beds before nurturing by the volunteers.

Side note to the above article: We can only recognize volunteers who log their time in our volunteer portal. Contact Denise if you need a refresher on how to do so!



Volunteer's Corner

Why I Volunteer at the Arboretum

By Bev Treadway

Today is April 13, 2021 and I'm heading out the door to go to the Arboretum greenhouse, to help with repotting lavender plants for Lavender Day. I'm really excited to get going. It's been ages since I've worked on a group project and I'll be seeing old friends and maybe meeting some new ones.

I park my car, say hello to Bill, and walk through the door to the greenhouse. I step into the pan of bleach water, thankful I remembered to wear my work boots for this visit. The bleach water keeps the bacteria at bay that can harm new plantings. I greet everyone and find a spot to work.

Bill and Rod fill us in on our project. There are lots of lavender starts to repot. If we do it right, then they will grow into big, healthy lush plants and be sold at the Lavender Day sale.

We chat as we work, and in no time the task is done and some of us start helping Laura repot the veggies. Two hours go by quickly.

I have done all kinds of things since I began volunteering at the Arboretum 2017. I remember how nervous I was walking into my first training class and wondering if I would fit in. But I was made to feel so welcome and valued, that I was happy I came. I met lots of newbies like myself and found common interests with them.

Since that first introduction, I have done a variety of tasks as a volunteer. Some fit in with what I already knew, others have stretched my learning muscles and lessened my fears. Here is just a sampling:

I became a docent, gave tours and taught programs to folks young and old. This had been a secret desire and also one of my greatest fears. After doing it for a few years, it's become a beloved passion. I used to be intimidated by kids, having none of my own, now working with them is pure fun.

I created tours with my friend Laura and found unique ways to show people how to enjoy the Arboretum and nature. We covered topics like Victorian Flower Language; Nordic Nature Myths; Pollinators; Love Stories in the Garden; and a lot more. I can't wait to get these started again once we get past the pandemic mitigations.

I've worked solo in the garden and done group projects. They can be hard work, but also a lot of fun.

And Bill and Denise graciously supported me when I wanted to start a newsletter for volunteers and gave me room to experiment.

I love volunteering here at the Arboretum. Giving a little bit of my time on a regular basis is nothing compared to what I get back: friendship, a sense of belonging, feeling needed and valued, getting to try new things, even when I fail. And best of all, I get to work in a place I love.



April 2021. All masked up in the greenhouse and ready to plant!



October 2017. Dr Ed Kleiner leading our very first Good Nature Waling Tour. What a great time we had in the Oak Grove!

M.A.S. Virtual Learning Workshops

By Bev Treadway

The May Arboretum Society is continuing a full schedule of workshops in the coming months. These workshops are fun and cover a wide range of topics. Here is the current schedule of Zoom classes:

Photographing Nature, Bring the Arboretum into Focus (Part 1) May 3, 2021 5pm to 6pm

Learn some basic photography skills with a focus on how to capture great shots in the May Arboretum this spring. During the presentation, you will learn some basic information on types of cameras, photographic concepts, and tips for capturing wildlife and spring blossoms in the arboretum's vibrant gardens and groves. Tips will be accompanied by sample photos. Participants are encouraged to submit their arboretum photos for a friendly critique during a follow-up session scheduled for Monday, May 17th. Judy Duffy is the guest presenter.

Note: Participation in the follow-up session on Monday, May 17th does not preclude participation in this first session.

In the Footsteps of the Donner Party May 11, 2021 5pm-6pm

In the spring of 1846, a group of families stepped off into the wilderness for a 2,000-mile walk across the continent – and into history. Join our guest, author and national expert on the tragedy, as he tells the tale of these doomed pioneers and explains the cascade of events that led to their winter entrapment west of what is now Reno, and the rescue of the survivors. Frank X. Mullen, author of "The Donner Party Chronicles, presents.

Photographing Nature, Bring the Arboretum into Focus, Part 2 May 17, 2021 5pm-6pm

As a follow-up to the May 3rd session, participants are encouraged to apply the tips learned at the first session and create digital photos taken at the May Arboretum of wildlife and flower subjects. Participants may submit up to two (2) photographs for a friendly and helpful critique.

Even if you weren't able to attend the first session and you have taken photographs at the arboretum before, you are welcome to submit them to get helpful hints to improve your techniques. Judy Duffy presents.

Ancient Findings of Northern Nevada. June 7, 2021 5pm –6pm

Our area is known for amazing ancient findings, including some of the oldest in our state - and in North America. Join us for a spirited discussion of the communities, cultures, and creatures of yesteryear, along with ancient findings of world significance, all right here in Northern Nevada. Laura Robertson is the Presenter.

You will need to register on the MAS website to get access to the free workshops

[Lectures & Workshops - May Arboretum Society](#)



Judy Duffy



Frank X. Mullen



Laura Robertson

Educational Programs Update

New Activities Coming to the Arboretum

By Bev Treadway

Our AmeriCorps Educator, Laura Fraser has some fun activities planned for the summer. Here is what is currently scheduled, but keep in mind that as our State and County COVID guidelines adjust, more activities may pop up, so keep checking the Arboretum website for more upcoming events!

Gnome Scavenger Hunt!

The first new program on the list at the Arboretum this season is a Gnome Scavenger Hunt. It will run from June through August this summer. There will be a map with the garden that gnomes are located in. Once they find a gnome, they can write down the name of the gnome on the map and turn it in on days that we have volunteers stationed outside of the south entrance. If they find and write down the names of all eight gnomes, they'll receive a prize (stamp, sticker, sucker, etc. just a small token to say they accomplished it!).

Salsa Garden Kits

Laura has also started lots of Pizza and Salsa Garden Kits that she will be giving out to families once they're ready to go some time in the months of June/July. She is not sure how many will be given away at this point, it depends on how many plants germinate and make it through transplanting. Also included in the kits are care instructions for the plant, a little fun fact about each plant, and a recipe card on how to use the ingredients either on a pizza or in a homemade salsa!

Sidewalk Chalk Obstacle Course

This fun and interactive game was a hit with visitors last fall. Quite often you could see folks of all ages, hopping, skipping and following the instructions on the path. Be on the lookout for new versions appearing on the weekends when the weather is good. Laura is hoping to restart this in May.

Online programs are continuing, as well.

Children's Online Activities

Currently the activities in progress include: Composting in a Bag; Window Sprout House; Plant Maze; and Grass Heads (Egg Heads) as well as others. You can check out this link for more information. www.washoecounty.us/parks/maycenterhome/arboretum/learn_explore/kids_programs/online_activities/all_ages.php

Virtual Story Time

There are some great Story Time Videos available at this link. www.washoecounty.us/parks/maycenterhome/arboretum/learn_explore/kids_programs/story_time.php

Laura puts a new one up each week, with the help of our educational volunteers.

A note from Laura: *I do need to find more spring related books/stories for it so if any volunteers have children's books they would like to read or donate that would be awesome!*



Upcoming May Arboretum Society Events

Plein Air Paint Out Among the Perennials, Sunday June 13, 2021

Plein Air painting originated with French Impressionism and is focused on painting outdoors, capturing the natural light in landscapes.

The May Arboretum Society invites artists of all ages and skill levels to the 2nd annual PAINT OUT! Participants will be able to paint in the gardens of the May Arboretum and Botanical Garden beginning at 8:00am.

All levels from amateur to professional painters are welcome. For artist information and how to register, click the link below.

[Plein Air Artist Information - May Arboretum Society](#)

At 12:30pm, artists will showcase their artwork in the Kleiner Oak Grove for a "wet-paint sale," which is open to the public.



Art Stroll and Wet Paint Sale Among the Perennials, Sunday June 13, 2021



From 10:00am to 12:00pm, stroll through the gardens and groves while the region's artists set up their easels and paint *en plein air*, capturing their favorite landscapes, showcasing the essence of the fauna and flora that calls the Arboretum home.

Beginning at 12:30pm to 1:30pm, meet under the Red Tent set-up in the Kleiner Oak Grove to both view and purchase paintings that highlight the beauty of the May Arboretum and Botanical Garden and your favorite garden.

Proceeds from the wet-paint sale will support the artists and the work of the May Arboretum Society.

We will be following the latest guidelines to adhere to best practices to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, while still providing the highest quality experience to our artists and visitors.



Plant Sale Update!

NOTE: There will be no Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale this year. Due to earlier than usual plant ordering deadlines with the supplier and unknowns at the time about the status of COVID restrictions it was decided to cancel the sale this year. However, the Annual Lavender Festival is going on as usual as well the Bulb Sale in the Autumn!

Upcoming May Arboretum Society Events

7th Annual Lavender Day Festival, Saturday, July 10, 2021 9:00am to 2:00pm

Join us outside the Labyrinth Garden and in Saint Patrick's Grove as we host our 7th annual Lavender Day.

The scent of lavender will be in the air, come and celebrate!

There will be demonstrations on harvesting, infusing, and cooking with lavender and other mini-presentations.

Ten varieties of lavender plants will be available to purchase. All are chosen because they grow well in Northern Nevada. Master Gardeners will also be on hand to provide growing tips for our area.

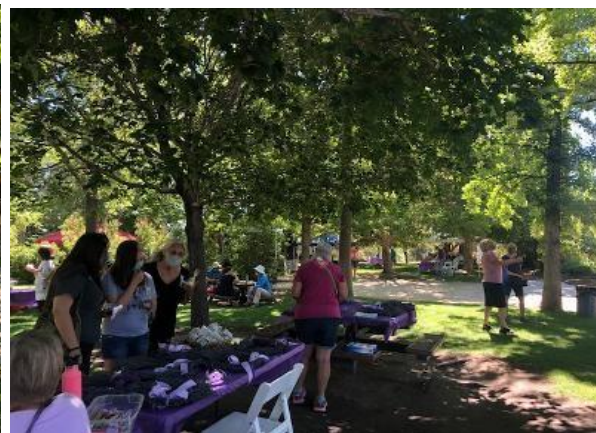
Purchase fresh lavender wreaths and DIY kits to make lavender wands. Enjoy shopping with local artists and other exhibitors. You can purchase natural bath and body products as well as essential oils, candles, and edible products made or infused with lavender, jewelry, garden art and stakes, fairy garden accessories, and more.

Beat the heat with our thirst quenching, homemade lavender lemonade and iced tea.

Enjoy the vocal talents of the Retro Radio Girls; a local all female harmony trio performing a delightful mix of classical hits from bygone years to popular modern songs with a unique twist.

~ CASH AND CREDIT ACCEPTED ~

We will be following the latest guidelines to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.



Scenes from last year's Lavender Day Festival.



Upcoming May Arboretum Society Events

Fall Bulb Festival, Saturday, Oct. 9th & Sunday, Oct. 10th

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Enjoy autumn at the Arboretum, while planning for a blooming spring garden!

Join us in Saint Patrick's Grove for the Fall Bulb Festival!

More than 10,000 spring bulbs—380 different varieties for sale!

TULIPS, DAFFODILS, CROCUS, HYACINTH, ONION, GARLIC, PEONY BULBS, AND MORE...

ONLINE PRESALE BEGINS SEPTEMBER 1st

Whether you want to add a few spring bulbs to your current landscape or you want to plant an entire blooming spring garden, this event will have everything you need.

Garden professionals will be on hand to answer questions and offer bulb planting demos.

Visit with Local Artisans!

Shop for seasonal fairy garden supplies and fall décor, including **mini succulent pumpkins** from Wilbur's Garden Cart.

At the Fall Bulb Festival, we will be following the latest guidelines to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.



Arboretum Upgrades

By Bill Carlos

Thanks to the May Arboretum Society, the Dixie May Plaza Garden received a new water feature. Chosen by the society board and approved by the arboretum staff, it replaces the magnolia shaped feature that was vandalized a year ago. The feature will provide a calm, soothing peaceful effect to visitors. Just a few more minor touches and the feature will be flowing throughout the season.



The new sculptural fountain at Dixie's Plaza Garden



The lovely lion head fountain addition at Burke Garden

Another water feature that was recently replaced in Burke Garden is a old English fountain that anchors the cottage garden theme. It will flow throughout the year providing visitors with photo opportunities and a cool visual relief that people are attracted to during the summer. Come experience them for yourself. Many thanks to the May Arboretum Society and Washoe County for assisting with the replacement and purchase of this fountain.



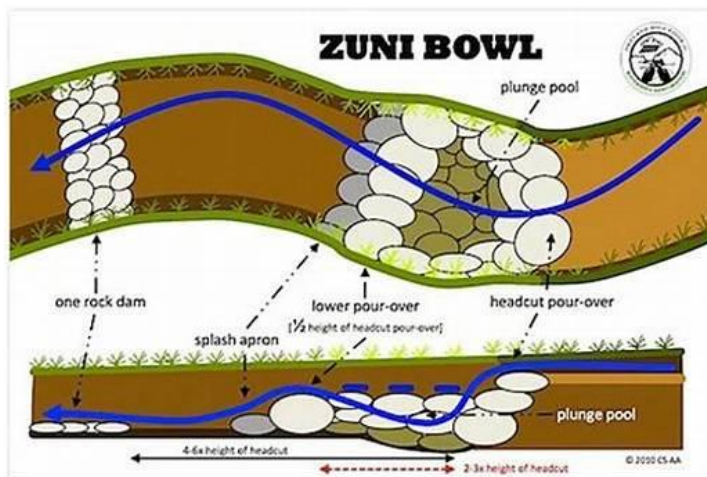
Update on the Cactus and Succulent Garden

By Rod Dimmitt

2020 was a big year, from a planning standpoint, for the May Arboretum and Botanical Garden! The May Arboretum Society funded the plan for a new garden at the Arboretum. This Garden will be a Cactus and Succulent Garden. Bill Carlos and Rod Dimmitt worked to develop a focus group of community members to see what the community would like to see in a new Cactus Garden. These focus group members represented the May Arboretum staff, Washoe County, Nevada Fish and Wildlife, the Desert Research Institute, the Bureau of Land Management, the Native Nevada Plant Society, the UNR Ag Co-op extension, as well as the former Director of the Cactus Garden at the Huntington Garden in Southern California, and members of the May Arboretum Society. The group brainstormed ideas of what we would like to see, and we took those ideas to the designers at the Didier Design Studio. The Didier Design Studio has done world class work for the Denver Botanical Garden, Desert Botanical Garden, a redesign of the master plan for the Santa Fe Botanical Garden, to name a few. We had several Zoom planning meetings and a 4-day on-site visit from the designers to meet with our Focus Group. The site plan below is part of the fund-raising packet that was developed to help bring the Garden to reality.

The design includes representations of plants from all over the world. It will feature a Native Nevada and Great Basin Garden, along with gardens representing plants from the Mojave and Sonoran Desert, the Northern Chihuahuan desert (Mexico), South America, South Africa, along with plants from Europe and Asia. The Illustrative design on the next page, includes water features, a shade pavilion, a gathering circle along with a drainage water capturing system, called Zuni Bowls, that have been very successful in trapping water at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden, in high runoff areas.

So, where do we go from here now that we have a plan? Our first step is to present the plan to the Washoe County Parks Commission. From there, we will present the plan to the County Commissioners for Washoe County. This Garden will be a transitional garden, in that we plan to use this garden to introduce a paid admission to this garden, along with a future Children's Garden that will be located adjacent to the Cactus and Succulent Garden. The Arboretum had over 100,000 visitors last year. If we were to offer a small charge of \$10 for example, that would raise a million dollars for the May Arboretum. With that money, we could fund additional staff, along with the next new garden design. We hope to make this garden our first step towards self-sustainability! We will keep everyone updated as we progress along this journey. It will certainly make for fun travels! A special thank you goes out to the May Arboretum Society Board of Directors for funding this design project!



Left, Cactus Succulent Garden at Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Az. Photo by Rod Dimmitt. Above, Zuni Bowl rendering by Dryland Solutions.

Update on the Cactus and Succulent Garden Cont.



Didier Design Studio Rendering of the Cactus and Succulent Garden plan at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum



More Cactus and Succulent Garden examples which can be found at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix Arizona. Photos courtesy of Rod Dimmitt.

Activity Dates To Look Forward To!

May 2021

- ♦ **May 3– Virtual Learning Series on Zoom**
Photographing Nature: Bring the Arboretum into Focus Part 1. 5-6pm
- ♦ **May 6, 13, 20, 27–Virtual Story Time at the Arboretum Ranch House.**
New videos are available online every Thursday at this link: [Story Time \(washoecounty.us\)](https://www.washoecounty.us/storytime)
- ♦ **May 11– Virtual Learning Series on Zoom In the Footsteps of the Donner Party. 5-6pm**
- ♦ **May 17– Virtual Learning Series on Zoom**
Photographing Nature: Bring the Arboretum into

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June 2021

- ♦ **June 3, 10, 17, 24–Virtual Story Time at the Arboretum Ranch House.** New videos are available online every Thursday at this link: [Story Time \(washoecounty.us\)](https://www.washoecounty.us/storytime)
- ♦ **June 7–Virtual Learning Series on Zoom** *Ancient Findings of Northern Nevada. 5pm-6pm.*
- ♦ **June 13 Plein Air Painting, Wet Paint Sale and Art Stroll 10am-1:30pm**

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Interesting Spot: Burke Garden

By Bev Treadway

Burke Garden is beautiful any time of year. Between the recently upgraded hardscape, with its pavers and fountain, and the softscape of forsythia, crabapples and roses bushes, there is always something special to look at.

Now that spring is here, I must ask my annual question:

“What is Connie planting in the garden this year?”

Sadly, Connie isn’t talking.

She never does.

When I saw her a couple of weeks ago, she gave me her usual, cryptic answer. “You have to wait and see. I’ve planted seeds at home, we’ll see what grows.”

Sigh. I guess that’s part of the charm of Burke Garden in the spring.

It’s the anticipation.



A variety of seasonal plantings at Burke’s Garden.

Entering the [Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden](#), you can sense that there is something special here. With a diverse plant community, beautiful garden layouts, and foliage changing with the seasons, it really is the jewel of Reno, Nevada! We have opportunities for all ages to explore, learn, celebrate, and get involved. Take a look around and see what peaks your interests. Your next outdoor adventure awaits at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden!

